

MINUTES
Morris County Board of Transportation Meeting
Tuesday, October 12, 2010
Morris County Department of Planning & Development
30 Schuyler Place, 4th Floor Conference Room
Morristown, NJ

In Attendance:

Board Members	Other Attendees	Staff
Freeholder Director Gene Feyl	Hope Hezel	Frank Pinto
Ilene Dorf Manahan, Chairperson	Amy Magnuson, NJTPA	Gerald Rohsler
Dudley Woodbridge, Secretary	Chris Mazzei, M&E Railway	Deena Cybulski
Frank Reilly		John Hayes
Judith Schleicher		
Hester Wharton		
Roman Zabihach, Alternate #1		
Joe Wells, Alternate #2		

I. Call to Order: Chairperson Ilene Dorf Manahan called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

II. Open Public Meeting Statement: Chairperson Manahan read the Open Public Meetings Act compliance statement.

III. Roll Call: Deena Cybulski read the roll call. Eight voting members were present during roll call.

IV. Approval of Minutes from August 18, 2010: Approval of the minutes was moved by Roman Zabihach and seconded by Dudley Woodbridge and the minutes were unanimously approved.

V. Staff Reports:

Changes to Morris County Bus System: John Hayes gave a presentation on the changes to the NJ Transit Morris County Bus system. Board Members and meeting attendees received printouts of the PowerPoint presentation and the Morris County bus system map prepared by NJ Transit, as well as copies of the bus schedules and the NJ Transit Advisory Notice regarding these changes.

The Morris County Metro (MCM) Bus system has been restructured and renumbered. It is no longer named the MCM; it is now referred to as the NJ Transit Morris County

Bus System. The four MCM buses, MCM 1, 2, 3, and 10, were replaced with six “800” series routes, the 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, and 880. The Wheels 966 bus was also renumbered and split into the 878 and 879. Access Link’s service area was maintained and expanded in some locations. The system has been redesigned so that Morristown Train Station is the bus transit hub of Morris County. All of these changes to the Morris County Bus System were cost-neutral for NJ Transit. For details on these changes, please visit www.morrisdot.org/bus/bus-NJTMorrisLocal.

- Hope Hezel reported that the NJ Transit Website Trip Planner was not recommending that riders should use NJ Transit Rail and transfer to the 875 at Dover to reach the County College of Morris (CCM). From points southeast, it recommends riders take multiple buses to reach CCM. NJ Transit had timed the 875 to meet both train and class schedules in order to provide an attractive replacement for the eliminated MCM 2 service to CCM.
- Hester Wharton noted that 875 bus service to CCM stops around 6:00 pm on weekdays. She brought attention to the 872 and 880 routes noting that they have the same start and end points but that they follow different routes. She conveyed the importance of clear communication of these new routes to the traveling public. Overall, she felt that the bus system changes were good improvements
- Freeholder Director Gene Feyl stated that Morris County needs to inform the public of the option to use monthly NJ Transit Train passes for bus trips equal to the number of zones printed on the pass.
- Frank Reilly stated that Pabco will no longer be running the Morris County Bus routes and he would be interested in seeing NJ Transit’s service estimate. He gave some background into the history of the MCM creation and operation when Morris County ran the system.
- Judith Schleicher recommended that decision makers should strive toward designing a public transportation network that serves everyone, not just one segment of the population. She thought these recent changes the Morris County Bus System were a good start towards meeting this goal.

Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Grant Proposal to the NJTPA: Deena Cybulski discussed the NJ 124 Corridor Transit Access Improvement Study proposal. The Morris County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) proposes to undertake a consultant-supported study of transit access in southeast Morris County along NJ 124 at three railroad stations. The three stations are, from west to east, Convent Station in Morris Township, Madison Station in Madison Borough, and Chatham Station in Chatham Borough. It is critical to acknowledge that the transit access needs of residents outside of the three municipalities’ will be taken into account. All stations are located on the Morris & Essex rail line. All three communities have embraced the railroad stations

and recognize the benefits associated with transit options. The goal of this study is to determine the most effective and acceptable course of action to improve access to transit in southeast Morris County.

- Gerald Rohsler noted that the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), the agency who administers the Subregional Studies Program (SSP) grants, has advised Morris County to continue to advance the proposal whether or not the ARC Tunnel project is advanced. There is already a need for improvements now.
- Freeholder Feyl stated that the study's recommendations could be phased based on the timetable of the ARC Tunnel's completion.
- Joe Wells identified the importance of including bicycle access and parking evaluation in the study.
- Mr. Reilly suggested that the study consider the feasibility and suitability of a multi-town parking authority.
- Ms. Cybulski requested support from the Morris County Board of Transportation for MCDOT to submit this SSP grant proposal to the NJTPA. Freeholder Feyl said his vote was contingent upon the reception of a Letter of Support from Chatham Borough. A motion of support was moved by Ms. Schleicher and seconded by Mr. Zabihach and the motion was unanimously approved, pending a Letter of Support from Chatham Borough. (*A letter of support was received from Chatham Borough following the MCBT meeting.*)

Morris County Call to Service Event: Frank Pinto announced that the Morris County Call to Service Event will be held on October 20, 2010 from 6:30pm-9:00pm at the Morris County Public Safety Training Academy. The event is designed to raise public awareness and attract volunteers to the various county boards.

County-Owned Railroad Update: Gerald Rohsler summarized the status of the county-owned railroads and other freight-related events. Wes Weis has replaced Gordon Fuller at the Morris & Erie Freight Railway and will now serve on the Freight Railroad Advisory Committee. The Chester Branch reconstruction is half-way completed and should be done at the end of December or early January. It is anticipated that there will be no more public activities for the season by the time Chester Branch reconstruction gets to Horseshoe Lake Park.

The Freight Railroad Advisory Committee (FRAC) met earlier in the day on October 12. At the FRAC meeting, Ted Matthews from the NJTPA gave a presentation on the activities of the NJTPA Freight Initiatives Committee. MCDOT has received two of the Technical Memorandums that are part of the Morris County Freight Infrastructure

and Land Use Analysis study. A draft of the final document is due at the end of December.

VI. Old Business:

None

VI. New Business:

- Chairperson Manahan welcomed Ms. Hezel, Director of the Morris Area Paratransit System (MAPS) and asked for her continued insight on MAPS and senior and disabled transportation services.
- Ms. Hezel reported that the Department of Aging, Disabilities, and Veterans Services had submitted a grant application to receive funding for expansion of MAPS service in rural areas of the county where the rural bus routes MCM 4, 5, and 7 were eliminated. Dedicated tax revenue from Casinos is down this year. The Department may provide a training session to prepare staff to assist clients with public transit information. MAPS now requires only two days of advanced notice for reservations due to acquisition of new scheduling software.
- Ms. Wharton requested MAPS visit and provide a presentation for the senior center in Madison to reassure residents that there are options for transportation.
- Mr. Wells distributed pamphlets for the recently restored Pequannock Historical Train Station. The historical train station is located along the New York, Susquehanna, and Western Railway (NYS&W) right of way, in the same vicinity as where the NYS&W bicycle path is being designed.
- Ms. Schleicher reported that at a recent Park Commission meeting concern was raised for the loss of artifacts along NYSW during construction of the bicycle path. Mr. Rohsler indicated that as part of the project scoping phase, a cultural resources inventory was conducted in order to avoid sacrificing valuable artifacts.
- Amy Magnuson announced several upcoming committee meetings and the next in the NJTPA's series of Transportation and Technology Symposia, Coordinating Transportation and Emergency Management Planning, to be held on Thursday, October 21, 2010 from 9:30am-3:30pm at the NJTPA conference room in Newark.
- Chairperson Manahan announced that Hester Wharton is resigning from the Morris County Board of Transportation after almost 30 years of serving as a

member. Freeholder Feyl read a Freeholder Resolution honoring her service and presented it to Ms. Wharton.

XI. Public Comments: None

XII. Next Regular Meeting: January 11, 2011

XIII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Notes prepared by John Hayes